

REMARKS

Applicants' respectfully request reexamination and reconsideration of the application in view of the following remarks.

Claims 1 and 11 have been canceled; claims 9, 16, and 20-51 have been withdrawn; claims 6-8 are original; and claims 2-5, 10, 13-15, and 17-19 have been amended. Claims 2-8, 10, 12-15, and 17-19 remain in the application.

Claims 9, 16, and 20-51 have been withdrawn pursuant to a restriction requirement.

The Examiner has stated that claim 12 is objected to as being dependant upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection in view of Applicant's rewriting of claim 12 to incorporate the claimed subject matter of independent claim 1 and intervening claim 11.

The Examiner has objected to claims 10 and 14.

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the objection in view of applicant's amendment claims 10 and 14 in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 5-8, 10, 13-15, 17, and 18 under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Edmunds, III et al. (U.S. Patent 6,179,273).

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection and requests that the Examiner withdraw the

rejection in view of cancellation of the independent claim(s) in order to place the claims in better condition for allowance. The remainder of the dependent claims have been canceled or amended to depend from allowable claim 12.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 5-8, 10, 13-15, 17, and 18 under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Ernsberger (U.S. Patent 6,168,346).

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection and requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection in view of cancellation of the independent claim(s) in order to place the claims in better condition for allowance. The remainder of the dependent claims have been canceled or amended to depend from allowable claim 12.

The Examiner has rejected claims 2-4 and 19 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over either Edmunds, III et al. Or Ernsberger as applied above, and further in view of Glaesener (U.S. Patent 3,704,861).

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection and requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection in view of cancellation of the independent claim on which dependent claims 2-4 and 19 depend in order to place the claims in better condition for allowance. The dependent claims have been amended to depend from allowable claim 12.

The Examiner has rejected claim 11 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over either Edmunds, III et al. or Ernsberger as applied above, and further in view of Hubbell (U.S. Patent 6,561,492).

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection and requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection in view of cancellation of the independent claim on which dependent claim 11 depends in order to place the claims in better condition for allowance. The dependent claim has been amended to depend from allowable claim 12.

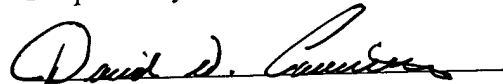
The Examiner has rejected claim 14 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ernsberger as applied above, and further in view of Marinelli (U.S. Patent 6,074,269).

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection and requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection in view of cancellation of the independent claim on which dependent claim 14 depends in order to place the claims in better condition for allowance. The dependent claim has been amended to depend from allowable claim 12.

For all of the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that the claims are patentable over the cited references and that the application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests prompt reconsideration and receipt of the formal Notice of Allowance. A check for the petition fee is enclosed herewith. Please charge any underpayment or credit any overpayment to Counsel's Deposit Account No. 50-0642.

If the Examiner believes there are other unresolved issues in this case, Applicant's attorney would appreciate a telephone call at (502) 452-1233 to discuss any such remaining issues. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner telephone Applicant's counsel if the Examiner deems any of the amended claims not to be allowable pursuant to Applicant's amendments to the claims or because the Examiner believes an amendment to a claim would require a new search in order to give Applicant the opportunity to cancel the claims to place the application in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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